Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1866

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS PARIS 11366

PASS TREASURY, FEDERAL RESERVE, COMMERCE, LABOR

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS EALR, EFIN, EGEN, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

REF: PARIS 10863, APRIL 14

SINCE REFTEL, FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT DATA RECEIVED CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION:

1. FOR FIRST TIME SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT TOPPED THE MILLION MARK IN MARCH, REGISTERING 1,002,500, UNCLASSIFIED

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UP 3.1 PERCENT FROM FEBRUARY. UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT FELL SLIGHTLY TO 1,020,600, DOWN FROM 1,055,000. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNFILLED JOB OFFERS SHOWED NO CHANGE FROM FEBRUARY. RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT, BASED ON REVISED METHODOLOGY, WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY.

2. MONTHLY INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN FEBRUARY

WAS 127, DOWN 2.3 PERCENT FROM JANUARY. PRODUCTION IN ALL SECTORS FELL: 4.6 PERCENT IN ENERGY, 1.7 PERCENT IN INTERMEDIATE GOODS, 1.4 PERCENT IN CONSUMER GOODS, AND 2.7 PERCENT IN CAPITAL GOODS. INDEX ON A MONTHLY BASIS SHOULD BE TREATED WITH CAUTION. HOWEVER, INDEX ON A LONG-TERM BASIS CONFIRMS STAGNATION IN PRODUCTION SINCE AVERAGE OF MONTHLY INDICES FROM DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY SHOWS SAME LEVEL OF PRODUCTION AS PREVIOUS THREE-MONTH PERIOD.

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